

The City of Winfield met in regular session on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 5:00pm at Council Chambers, 115 N Locust Street with Mayor Willie Bender presiding. Council persons present: David Pieart, Matt Hernandez, Jennifer Lemke, Brandy Smith, Randy Redlinger. Others present: JR Herrick, Angie Oepping, and Scott Roen

Approval of Agenda – Agenda approved by a motion of J. Lemke, D. Pieart 2nd Ayes-5 Nays-0 Carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda-Bills & Minutes from October 16, 2024 council meeting – Approved by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Departmental Reports – Electronic reports provided to the council. Officer Roen stated that they had 19 kids participate in the bike safety program and that Walmart donated bikes to be given as prizes and he also informed the council that he is helping with the JR Deputy program on Wednesdays after school. B. Smith asked how the process works for handling nuisance properties. J. Lemke stated that the control (cemetery) board met to discuss the joint agreement and possible revisions. Patti Gerling will review agreement and reach back out to board to discuss further.

Public Forum – no one available

WWTP Improvements – Progress Report and Pay Application #13 – JR Herrick informed council that estimated operation completion date is 12/20/24; Progress Report and Pay Application were approved by a motion of B. Smith, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Tractor Quote – Additional quotes were received from Morning Sun Farm Implement (2023 Massey Ferguson \$59,200 after trade-in and a 2024 Kubota \$54,000 after trade-in); JR Herrick test drove Massey Ferguson; full warranty; would need light added to the top; After further discussion of fixing current Case Tractor or moving forward with the 2023 Massey Ferguson; the council approved to proceed with the purchase of Massey Ferguson and speaking with the bank on different loan options by a motion of J. Lemke, D. Pieart 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Police Officer/SRO Update – Mayor Bender and A. Oepping met with Gaike Gill, Pat Coen, and Carmen Benson at the school to go over the Police Officer/SRO position. It was discussed that Officer Roen will commit to 15 hours to the school and then will limit time at the school to only 20 hours per week. Scott will share plan with city office his tentative schedule each week. In addition, the council agreed that a body cam would be a benefit (purchase of less than \$100).

Winfield Fitness Center Re-Location – The Fitness Center is looking to re-locate by February 1st and have reached out to possible locations. Other ideas from the council are the churches, Grasshorse, school, and library/fire station.

Pilot Grove Savings Bank Renovations – JR. Herrick will check the temperature controls, turn off the lights, work on changing locks. D. Pieart asked if the Europe trip students could utilize the building for an escape room fundraiser this winter. Council did not foresee an issue.

In-Town Leaf Removal – Yard waste bags available for sale for \$1 at the city office; residents can call once bags are ready to be picked up; will continue to take plastic trash bags this year.

Overtime/Comp Time Payout – Due to staffing with the public works department, JR has 98 hours of vacation to carry-over and has accrued 183.5 hours of comp time. A. Oepping will update handbook to reference a 90-hour ceiling cap on comp time accrual and A. Oepping will look to see if changes are needed for the vacation policy. Changes to the handbook will be presented at the December meeting. Council approved to pay out comp time of 93.5 hours and 58 hours of vacation by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Disposal of Property at 306 E Ash – Council approved to move forward with a sealed bid process with a reserve bid of \$7,500 and stipulations for a timeframe and to follow zoning regulations on what can be built on the property. Timeline would include - 120 days from closing to demo and 24 months from closing to build a residence. A. Oepping will reach out to attorney to get the process moving forward.

Resolution 7-2025 – Annual City Street Financial Report – A. Oepping reviewed the report with the council. The resolution approved by a motion of J. Lemke, D. Pieart 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Resolution 8-2025 – Setting Employee Salaries – Resolution approved by a motion of J. Lemke, B. Smith 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-o Carried.

Approve Annual Urban Renewal Report, Fiscal Year 2024 – A. Oepping reviewed the report with the council. The report was approved by the council by a motion of J. Lemke, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-5, Nays-0 Carried.

Old Business – Stray cats – Council has received numerous complaints ... Information will be shared in the bill and on Facebook in regards to the number of animals allowed and that they must remain on own property.

Mayors Comments – Mayor Bender thanked those on the council for helping at Halloween Weiner Roast.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 7:17pm by a motion of J. Lemke, M. Hernandez 2nd Ayes-5 Carried. The next regular session meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th at 5:00pm.

Angie Oepping, City Clerk

Willie Bender, Mayor